

NOTICE OF  
TENTATIVE  
DECISION TO  
APPROVE NO.  
M/047/032

BEFORE THE DIVI-  
SION OF OIL, GAS  
AND MINING DE-  
PARTMENT OF NATU-  
RAL RESOURCES  
STATE OF UTAH

IN THE MATTER OF  
TENTATIVE DECISION  
TO APPROVE A MIN-  
ING AND RECLAMA-  
TION PLAN FOR BUE-  
NA VENTURA RE-  
SOURCES CORPORA-  
TION'S ASPHALT  
RIDGE OIL SANDS  
PROJECT UINTAH  
COUNTY, UTAH.

THE STATE OF  
UTAH TO ALL OPERA-  
TORS, TAKERS OF  
PRODUCTION, MIN-  
ERAL AND ROYALTY  
OWNERS, AND PAR-  
TICULARLY ALL PER-  
SONS INTERESTED IN  
SECTIONS 30 AND 31,  
TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH,  
RANGE 21 EAST,  
SLBM, UINTAH  
COUNTY, UTAH.

Notice is hereby given  
by the Division of Oil,  
Gas and Mining of its  
tentative decision to ap-  
prove Buena Ventura Re-  
sources Corporation Min-  
ing and Reclamation Plan  
for the Asphalt Ridge Oil  
Sands Project. Mining  
activities will effect the  
following area: NE1/4 of  
Section 31 and S1/2 of  
the SE1/4 of Section 30,  
Township 4 South, Range  
21 East SLBM, Uintah  
County, Utah.

Buena Ventura Re-  
sources Corporation has  
submitted a permit appli-  
cation to expand an exist-  
ing small mining opera-  
tion to a large mining op-  
eration. The operator will  
employ the following  
mining and reclamation  
techniques on approxi-  
mately 25.5 acres of pri-  
vately owned land.

**During Operations:**

Tar sand will be mined  
using hydraulic shovels  
and asphalt reclaimers.  
Blasting is not anticipat-  
ed in the tar sand mining  
operation. The mined tar  
sand is then loaded into  
trucks for haulage to a  
stockpile at the extraction  
facility. Raw tar sand will  
be processed with solvent  
to produce bitumen. Bitu-  
men will be processed  
through distillation into  
high quality asphalt and  
light distillate products.  
The bitumen will be sep-  
arated from the solvent in  
the atmospheric and vac-  
uum distillation towers  
with solvent recycled  
back to the extraction fa-  
cility. Clean waste sand  
will be generated as a by-  
product. This sand will  
be used to backfill the ad-  
jacent tar sand pit which  
Uintah County has mined  
for many years.

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF UTAH,

County of Uintah

} ss.

I, SHEILA S. WHEELER,

being duly sworn, depose and say, that I  
am the Business Manager of The Vernal  
Express, a weekly newspaper of general  
circulation, published each week at Vernal,  
Utah, that the notice attached hereto was  
published in said newspaper

for 1 publications,

the first publication having been made on

the 16th day of October, 1996 and the last

on the 16th day of October, 1996, that

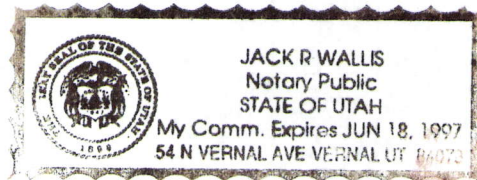
said notice was published in the regular  
and entire issue of every number of the  
paper during the period and times of  
publication, and the same was published in  
the newspaper proper and not in a  
supplement.

By, \_\_\_\_\_

Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this  
16th day of October A.D. 1996.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, Residence, Vernal, Utah





#### After Operations:

At the end of the project, complete reclamation will be performed. Initially waste sand from the solvent extraction process will be placed against the highwall in the existing Uintah County pit area. Waste sand will continue to be stacked to the east and tied into the overburden stockpile/bern until the overall slope is restored and highwall is eliminated. When the existing pit has reached capacity and mining progresses to the south, contemporaneous reclamation will be performed. Over burden from the newly stripped area will be placed on older previously mined out areas of the pit and rough graded. Topsoil from the newly stripped area will then be placed over the recontoured areas and reseeded. At final reclamation, concrete foundations from the processing facility will be broken up and buried in the pit area with a minimum of three feet of cover. Tanks and associated processing structures and facilities will be demolished and/or removed from the site.

In the Uintah County disturbed area, topsoil was historically removed and mixed with overburden and is not available for replacement. Due to the scarcity of topsoil, re-topsoiling efforts will be focused on areas where adequate topsoil and moisture are available to support sustained revegetation.

Reclamation activities will be concentrated where the maximum benefit can be achieved in coordinated effort with DOGM. Programs to

augment the natural topsoil with recycled composts, sewage sludge or agricultural waste will be explored if cost effective.

The person representing the company is Mr. Thomas Bachtell, President; Phone (801) 537-5610. Buena Ventura Resources Corporation is fulfilling obligation under the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act of 1975, Utah Code Ann. 40-8-18.

Any person or agency aggrieved by this tentative decision to issue approval is hereby requested to submit written protest within thirty (30) days of the date of publication to Mary Ann Wright, Associate Director of Mining, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, 1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210, Box 145801 Salt Lake City, Utah